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gether and amass each his fortune. A late party of prospectors passing that way had found the white man's bones whitening among the sun-burnt rocks. The conclusion was that the negro had murdered his partner and absconded with the accumulated gains of both. And with many such cheerful and edifying bits of history do they seek to beguile the time which weary travelers spend at these desolate halting places in the wilderness.

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## EDITORS' TABLE.

EDITORS: A. S. PACKARD, JR., AND E. D. COPE.

— Whenever an institution accepts a bequest designed to assist impecunious but worthy students in the acquisition of some useful kind of knowledge, such as natural history, its obligations to itself, the donor and beneficiaries of the gift, are plainly that it must, under the direction of a competent committee, see that the donated funds are applied to the objects for which they were given. Such bequests render the institutions accepting them, *charitable*, and if in addition the bequest is for the purpose of enabling any particular class of persons to acquire a specific kind of knowledge, the institution becomes *educational* in the same sense that any special school is considered to be such. Under no ordinary circumstances can the governing body in charge of such a trust, neglect the duty of ascertaining whether the persons directly in charge of the incumbent beneficiaries, do their duty, and whether the beneficiaries themselves are competent persons who are making the proper progress under the proper discipline. Otherwise there is room for maladministration under unauthorized authority; or, the beneficiaries with no direction, under no discipline or instruction, fritter away their time in fruitless effort, at a period of life when they can ill afford to lose it.

The Academy of Natural Sciences, of Philadelphia, some years ago accepted a trust of this kind. Mr. A. E. Jessup's children, out of dutiful regard for their father's wishes, gave the society a sum in trust, the income of which was designed for the benefit of impecunious young men who desired to devote the whole of their time and energies to the pursuit of natural science. The desire to give a sum of money for such a purpose in a man like Mr. Jessup was a natural one, which probably took its rise in the recollection

of his own early struggles for knowledge, when he, too, was poor. He wished that the money he had verbally bequeathed should be used for the support of *poor* young men only, who would devote the *whole* of their time to study. Have Mr. Jessup's wishes been fully complied with in the administration of the benefits of the fund?

It has been argued that inasmuch as the Academy afforded the facilities for study in its library and collections, that all Jessup beneficiaries should in return spend a certain number of hours each day at work for the Academy. This is now the rule. But, as it has been claimed time and time again that the Academy is a charitable institution, it does not seem to be in keeping with this claim to ask Jessup scholars to devote a part of their time to labor in order to pay the Academy for the privilege of studying in its building, especially when the work they are frequently expected to perform has no interest to them or no scientific bearing whatever. The character of some of the work at which Jessup scholars have been employed, may be gathered from the following statements of facts: In one case a beneficiary was put to washing shells to prepare them for a specialist; another was employed at brushing and dusting off the collection of stuffed birds; on another occasion one of them was set to work by the librarian to copy the titles of books in the library for compilation of catalogues, properly the duty of the librarian himself, for which he is employed and paid. It has become the rule to make the Jessup scholars take the place of the janitors at the door once or twice a week, to sell the tickets which admit strangers to the museum of the Academy. It is hard to make a mental distinction in these cases between the supposed duties of a janitor and a Jessup scholar of the Academy. For months at a time Jessup scholars were employed in packing, hoisting, moving and unpacking cases, specimens, books and lumber during the time when the library and museum were being removed to the new building, in company with other laborers, yet it was considered that this was a part of the curriculum of study for which they could properly receive pay from the Jessup fund. The president of the Academy has had his official correspondence copied in duplicate by a Jessup scholar on various occasions. Besides these abuses, the recording secretary was in the habit of having his weekly reports of the meetings of the Academy, copied in duplicate by one of them for the daily press, and the corresponding secretary has the blanks acknowledging donations filled up by one of these scholars. They are also frequently used as messengers by the secretary, president and curators. They have become, in short, a species of men-of-all-work, useful to everybody about the institution, with no definite knowledge of their relation to the fund from whence they derive an income just sufficient, with close economy, to support themselves. These persons then are virtually employ  s of

the Academy, paid from the income of a bequest designed to foster free scholarships. Suppose the various scholarships in America and the fellowships in English universities were tenable only upon condition that a certain amount of manual labor was performed; would it be at all likely that Prof. Clerk-Maxwells or Sir Wm. Thomsons would be the results of the system?

A matter which also deserves notice is the custom of assigning to Jessup students the work of arranging and labeling the collections of which they possess no previous knowledge. This plan is in principle beneficial to the student, and its originators rightly comprehended the benefits to be derived from a systematic study of any given group of animals. But it is obviously improper to entrust the determination of a collection for scientific study to inexperienced persons, who are, moreover, sometimes careless, or quite indifferent about the accuracy of determinations. This plan is also objectionable on account of the fact that the training of a young naturalist in this way restricts him to a comparatively small group, so that he is quite unfitted to begin work as a teacher from a lack of comprehensiveness and the originality consequent upon a system of more general work. A broader preliminary training should be required of a person who applies for the benefits of this fund, all of which would redound to the credit of both the individual scholars and the Academy in after years. His knowledge of the elements of biological science should be as full as possible, so that he would not be afterwards compelled to go back and begin at the ground principles of his science, in order to underpin, as it were, his own mental superstructure.

In order to realize the abolition of what is manifestly wrong, as indicated in the foregoing recital, it is much to be desired that a living interest should be taken in the welfare of the Jessup scholars and scholarships, by members of the Academy, who by reason of their scientific attainments and experience as educators are abundantly able to do so. The apathy which allows the present condition to continue, is wrong, because the opportunities for the nurture of young men, who may become eminent naturalists, in the Academy might be made as good as anywhere in the United States. It remains the duty of the governing body of the Academy to appoint some naturalist who shall see that some sort of plan of study is followed by each student, and define and plan some specific courses of preliminary training in biology which would qualify the student to begin independent and original studies for himself, in which he might distinguish himself and reflect credit upon the institution which fostered him. The realization of some such method of training could readily be effected by the adoption of the scheme of professorships or curatorships which has elicited such an amount of silly animosity.